

Date

Mr. John Doe
Title
Organization
Address 1
Address 2
City, State ZIP

Mentoring: an age-old practice that pairs a young person with a caring adult who offers encourage and support and helps the young person succeed in life.

Dear Mr. Doe,

Mentoring works. We know this intuitively. We know this through research. And we also know that mentoring works the *best* when members of the community come together to invest in the future of their youth.

In her book, *Stand by Me: The Risks and Rewards of Mentoring Today's Youth*, Dr. Jean Rhodes of the University of Massachusetts concludes that mentors influence young people in three important ways, by: 1) enhancing social skills and emotional well-being, 2) improving cognitive skills through dialogue and listening and 3) serving as a role model and advocate. And studies by the Carnegie Corporation note that when asked what teens wanted most in their free time, one of the most frequent responses was “long talks with trusting and trustworthy adults who know a lot about the world and who like young people.”

And we have more good news to share: adults would like to be mentors. In 2002, a national mentoring poll conducted by MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership showed that 57 million adults would consider becoming mentors if they had access to an array of support services and had the ability within their schedules to commit. (To view the poll online, visit www.mentoring.org/poll.)

And here is the icing on the cake: corporate CEOs tell us that companies whose employees volunteer in mentoring programs are more productive, more loyal and embody an *esprit de corps* that is not found in businesses whose employees are not mentors.

Whether it be through starting or expanding a mentoring program, or whether it be through recruiting or sustaining volunteers, together, in partnership, all of us can make a tremendous impact on the young people in our community.

I would like to talk with you more about local mentoring opportunities and the resources we can provide to make mentoring a meaningful and effective endeavor for your organization and our community's youth. I will follow up soon with a call to your office.

Sincerely,

Name
Title

PS – F.Y.I., attached is a vignette about [MENTOR NAME AND MENTEE NAME], a real-life pair from [CITY, STATE]. Together, they prove that *mentoring works*.